

Remarks:

This Response is considered fully responsive to the final Office Action mailed September 27, 2007. Claims 1-23 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 5-8, and 13-23 stand rejected. Claims 2-4 and 9-12 are objected to. No claims have been amended, canceled, or added. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1 and 5-8 stand rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over United States patent number 6,608,819 to Mitchem, et al. (“Mitchem”). Further, claims 13-23 stand rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over United States patent number 6,233,236 to Nelson, et al. (“Nelson”). Finally, claims 2-4 and 9-12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Applicant submits herewith two Terminal Disclaimers to Obviate Double Patenting Rejections Over A “Prior” Patent for the aforementioned patents. The Examiner has not asserted any other rejections and the provisional rejection is the only remaining rejection in the present application. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1, 5-8, and 13-23 are in condition for allowance. Further, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 2-4 and 9-12 are in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as the independent claims from which they depend.

Conclusion

Claims 1-23 are currently pending in the application. Applicant has fully responded to each and every objection and rejection in the Office action dated September 27, 2007 and believes that claims 1-23 are in a condition for allowance. Applicant therefore requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-3199 in the amount of \$260.00 pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.20(d) for the fees associated with the filing of two (2) Terminal Disclaimers to Obviate Double Patenting Rejections submitted herewith. Applicant believes no additional fees or petitions are due with this filing. However, should any such fees or petitions be required, please consider this a request therefor and authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 50-3199 as necessary.

If the Examiner should require any additional information or amendment, please contact the undersigned attorney. If the Examiner believes any issues could be resolved via a telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 18, 2007

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